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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No. : TBA Inventor : Stratton et al.
Attorney Docket : M02B123 Group Art Unit : TBA
Filed : January 14, 2005 Examiner : TBA
Title : THERMAL TREATMENT METHOD

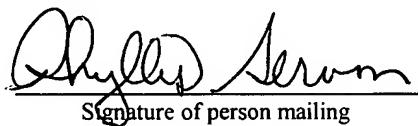
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In advance of examination on the merits in connection with the application identified above, please amend such application as follows.